

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A battery comprising a wound electrode group (~~1, 30, 33~~) accommodated in a battery case (~~17~~) together with electrolyte, and a sealing plate (~~18~~) for sealing that is configured to seal an open end of the battery case (~~17~~), wherein

the wound electrode group (~~1, 30, 33~~) ~~is composed of~~ comprises an electrode stack (~~7~~) ~~that is formed by laminating~~ includes a lamination of a strip of positive electrode plate (~~2~~), a strip of negative electrode plate (~~3~~), and a pair of separators (~~4A, 4B~~) interposed therebetween so as to cover both surfaces of one of the positive and negative electrode plates, and

when the electrode stack (~~7~~) is wound ~~around~~, a difference L in length between an inner turn and an adjacent outer turn satisfies  $L = 2t\pi + (W \times k)$ , where t is a thickness of the electrode stack (~~7~~), W is a maximum diameter of a cross section of the wound electrode group (~~1, 30, 33~~), and k is a coefficient that is preset in accordance with expansion coefficients of active materials of the positive and negative electrode plates (~~2, 3~~) and is within a range ~~of~~ from 0.005 to 0.05.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a wound electrode group wherein an electrode stack (7) is wound around a winding core (~~12, 13, 31, 32, 34, 37~~) to form a wound electrode group (~~1, 30, 33~~), the electrode stack being formed by laminating a strip of positive electrode plate (2), a strip of negative electrode plate (3), and a pair of separators (4A, 4B) interposed therebetween so as to cover both surfaces of one of the positive and negative electrode plates, the method comprising steps of:

setting a spacer (14) having predetermined dimensions at one or a plurality of locations between two adjacent turns (~~Ca, Cb~~) of the electrode stack (7) halfway in the process of winding the electrode stack (7) and winding them, and

removing the winding cores (~~12, 13, 31, 32, 34, 37~~) and the spacer (14) after fixing a winding end of the electrode stack (7) with a fixing member (10) after the completion of the winding process.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 2, wherein the electrode stack (7) is wound into the electrode group (~~1, 30, 33~~) ~~in which~~ such that a difference L in length between each ~~one~~ turn of two adjacent inner turn (~~Ca~~) and outer turn (~~Cb~~) turns satisfies  $L = 2t\pi + (W \times k)$ , where t is a thickness of the electrode stack (7), W is a maximum diameter of a cross section of the wound electrode group (~~1, 30, 33~~) to be formed by winding the electrode stack (7), and k is a coefficient that is preset in accordance with expansion coefficients of active materials of the positive and

negative electrode plates (~~2, 3~~) during battery use; and the spacer (~~14~~) has a thickness that achieves a total sum of the differences L.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 3, wherein the coefficient k is selected from a range of from 0.005 to 0.05 in accordance with the number of the spacers (~~14~~) being set.
5. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 2, wherein the spacer (~~14~~) is a bar-like member having a lens-like cross section with no sharp edges.
6. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a wound electrode group according to claim 4, wherein the spacer (~~14~~) is a bar-like member having a lens-like cross section with no sharp edges.